



February 2013



From the desk of...

Martin O'Malley, Governor of Maryland**What Can I Do?****Melt Ice Safely**

The most eco-friendly way to handle ice is to spread sand, ashes or kitty litter on slippery areas, or break up the ice with a shovel. If you must use a chemical de-icer, spread only in places where people walk. Never use fertilizer to melt ice - the nitrogen and phosphorus it contains can harm your local streams and the Bay.

[More info...](#)

Bay Fact

Last month, Maryland kicked off the [Reclaim the Bay](#) public awareness campaign to reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner Chesapeake Bay. We hope to reinvigorate the many State, federal and non-profit efforts that are working together to restore the Bay to her former glory.

Your work in this important cause will not only benefit the Bay and our waterways, reservoirs and groundwater, but will improve our landscapes, our communities, and the overall quality of life and health of our people.

The first phase of Chesapeake Bay restoration began 30 years ago, when Governor Hughes introduced a legislative package of 38 "Bay Initiatives." These initiatives included strengthening existing sediment and erosion controls, and creating the Critical Area Program, which designated areas for development and conservation.

From these beginnings to our current Watershed Implementation Plan to meet the requirements of the federal Clean Water Act, Maryland has worked with our inter-state Bay Program partners and our county and municipal governments to take the necessary steps to reduce pollution and restore the Bay. We are making great strides through this ongoing collaboration, but there is still more hard work



Great Blue Herons, present throughout the United States and Canada, gather in large rookeries every February to nest and raise their young. More than half of the Atlantic coast's breeding population choose the Chesapeake Bay's wetlands as their nesting site. [Learn more...](#)

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More news

[Enviros applaud O'Malley's budget: \\$31.5M for Bay Trust Fund](#)

[Bay's bounty brings in winter waterfowl from all over](#)

[Improved septic systems still pollute, albeit more slowly](#)

[New songbook, CD teach](#)

to do if we are to succeed.

We hope you'll join us in promoting the *Reclaim the Bay* campaign by getting the word out in your communities. Learn more at the Maryland Department of the Environment's [website](#).

Many factors contribute to the degradation of our waterways. By making [better choices](#) we can continue to build upon the progress for a healthier Bay.

Thank you for being a part of our efforts to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

Sincerely,

Water Quality Mapping Center Website

The Maryland Department of the Environment's online Water Quality Mapping Center provides an easy way to find water quality information for rivers and streams that flow into the Bay. Simply zoom in on the map to the location that interests you! An online video tutorial explains how to get the best use from the website. [Check it out...](#)

BayStat Update

Every two years Maryland sets new milestone goals for protecting and restoring the Chesapeake Bay. Maryland met its 2009-2011 milestones and is on target to meet 2012-2013 goals. At its January meeting, the BayStat team reviewed progress and began discussion about setting the next milestone goals for 2014-2015. More information is available [here](#). The BayStat team also discussed the Reclaim the Bay public awareness campaign and a March 4 Stormwater Symposium that will explore cost-efficient stormwater management projects with local jurisdictions.

Your Government at Work

***Reclaim the Bay* Campaign Kicks Off**
State, federal and non-profit organizations recently joined together to kick off Maryland's *Reclaim the Bay* public awareness campaign. This initiative seeks to involve citizens in Bay restoration efforts by sharing what everyone can do at home to help reach the State's 2025 pollution reduction goals. It also promotes cost-effective solutions for compliance with water quality standards and highlights Maryland's Bay restoration accomplishments. [Learn more...](#)



Earth Day Poster Contest Underway

Students in grades K-8 are invited to enter their best designs into the *Reclaim the Bay* Earth Day poster contest. Posters should depict what Marylanders can do to help



[kids about bay,
environment](#)

[Seals making a return to
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[Maryland's crab reporting
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[Baltimore chefs put bay's
bounty on the menu](#)

[Teaching students about
environmental awareness
in Maryland](#)

[Larry Simns named
'Admiral of the
Chesapeake'](#)

[Chicken litter to help
power Maryland offices,
State universities](#)

[State announces 2013 is
the year to 'Reclaim the
Bay'](#)

Quick Links

[More About BayStat](#)

[How to Use BayStat](#)

[Eyesonthebay.net](#)

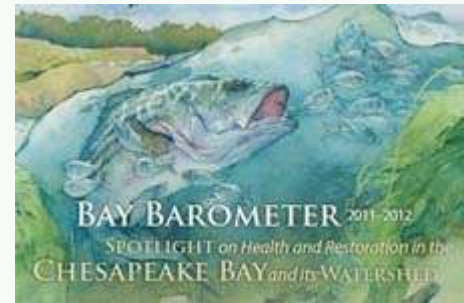
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restore the Chesapeake. Submissions are due by Monday, April 8, 2013. Winners will be recognized at an Earth Day event later in the month. [More info...](#)



"Bay Barometer" Shows Signs of Resilience

The most recent "Bay Barometer" — a science-based snapshot of watershed health — notes that the Chesapeake remains impaired, but shows encouraging signs of resilience and progress toward meeting restoration goals. The report was issued by the Chesapeake Bay Program, the regional partnership that leads Bay restoration and protection with federal, state and local agencies, academic institutions and non-profit organizations. [Get details...](#)



Report Calls for More Access to Waters

The National Park Service and the six Bay states, including Maryland, have released a plan that calls for more ways to get to waters in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The plan proposes to expand the number of waterway access points by more than 20 percent by 2025. [More info...](#)



Governor O'Malley Introduces Offshore Wind Energy Bill

Governor Martin O'Malley has introduced the Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013. The proposed legislation will create a framework to support a major offshore wind project, boosting Maryland's generation of renewable energy. The new activity is expected to create nearly 850 manufacturing and construction jobs for five years. [Learn more...](#)



Forest Service Now Accepting Tree Orders

The spring tree planting season will soon arrive, and the Maryland Forest Service is now taking orders for trees to be delivered for spring planting through the [John S. Ayton State Forest Tree Nursery](#). Seedlings may be planted on private or public land for conservation purposes. [TREE-MENDOUS](#) is also accepting orders



for trees to be planted on public lands.

Contact Info

Important: Please add baystat@dnr.state.md.us to your address book to make sure we don't get caught in your spam filter.

For comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter, please send an email to baystat@dnr.state.md.us